Female literacy rate

2007. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the femaie literacy rate;

(b) the reasons for low female literacy rate; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to 2001 census, the female literacy rate in the country was 53.7%.

(b) The reasons for low female literacy include

- Gender based inequality
- Social discrimination
- Child labour
- Poor economic status
- Occupation for girl child in domestic chores.

(c) National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL) as an amendment to the existing scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for providing additional support to Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) is being implemented for enhancing learning of the under privileged/disadvantaged girls at elementary level. Besides, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Scheme has been approved for opening of 500-750 residential schools with boarding facilties at elementary level for girls belonging predominantly to SC, ST, OBC and minorities, in educationally backward blocks.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims to provide functional literacy to non-literates in 15-35 age group. In order to improve the female literacy, Accelerated Female Literacy Projects have been taken up in the low female literacy districts of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.